

The motion picture industry is using the advent of digital television to fundamentally change the nature of its relationship to its customers. This industry wants to eradicate the concept of "fair use," substituting instead broad and sweeping controls over what the consumer does in the privacy of his/her own home.

The "broadcast flag" is the latest attempt to control and manipulate the consumer. I urge you to turn back this proposal.

We need to affirm the rights of the consumer to own and use recording and time-shifting devices without the control and manipulation of the Hollywood studios. What we select in our own homes to support our own comfort and convenience is not a proper subject for Hollywood manipulation.

The government represents not only these industries, but also the consumers who, in fact, pay the salaries of these industries through their purchases. Please give added weight to the interest and sensibilities of those who, at the end of the day, own the airwaves and should control their destiny.

Thank you for your time.